THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) Following broad based consultations on the subject matter after India became a Party to the Convention on Biological diversity in 1994, the Government constituted an Expert Committee in August, 1997 to suggest a draft legislation on Biological Diversity. The committee gave a draft outline of an Act on Biological diversity in October 1997. In pursuance thereof, this matter is under further examination.

Effects of Nuclear Weapons Explosions on Environment

1065. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to State:

(a) what can be the effects of fiuclcar weapons utilisation and its explosions;

(b) whether the department of Environment has studied the effects;

(c) whether the environment will be badly affertei!, if so, its likely effects on vegetation and livestock in the surrounding urea;

(d) how many trees are destroyed and its effect on cattle stock; and

(e) what precautions were taken to avoid or diminish its ill-effects?

THE MINISTER OF START IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid down on the table of the House.

Hazardous Waste in the Inland container Depots

1066. SHRIMATI VEENA V.RMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee appointed by the Supreme Court to report on the stock-pole of hazardous waste in the 1000 odd Inland container Depots all over the country, has detected enormous stockpiles of battery scrap, leadish waste oil and zinc-ash and other hazardous waste in these Depots;

(b) if so, the details of the hazardous waste piled up at these Depots and how so much of this waste found its way into the country despite the Basel-Convention adopted in 1995; and

(c)~ what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANADI): (a) and (b) The High Powered Committee appointed by the Supreme Court has been asked to look into the quantum and nature of hazardous wastes lying at various ports and container depots throughout the country. As per the information supplied by various ports and inland container depots, the status of hazardous wastes lying at some of the ports and container depots is given in the annexure. [See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 36]. The import of hazardous waste into the country is governed by Hazardous Waste (Mangement and Handling) Rules, 1989 and in accordance with the provisions of Basel Convention. The hazardous wastes lying at ports and container depots arc the unclaimed consignments which were taken in custody by the Customs Authorities in view of Delhi High Court Order banning the import of hazardous wastes.

(c) Samples of hazardous wastes lying at various ports and container depots have been collected and their analysis is in progress.

Tata Energy Research Institute Report on Pollution

1067. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Tata Energy Research Institute Report,

pollution in India is responsible for almost 2.5 million premature deaths per year; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to reduce polution especially in our major cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARAN-DI): (a) The study carried out by Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) is only an estimate based on a number of assumptions.

(b) The steps taken by the Government to reduce polution include the following:

(i) The Government has formulated a comprehensive Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which envisage integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollution;

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

(iii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas. Custom and excise duty exemptions are provided to the industries for pollution control/monitoring equipment;

(iv) A scheme for setting up of Common Effluent treatment Plants in clusters of small scale industrial units is under implementation;

(v) To promote pollution prevention in small and medium scale industries, the Government has established 15 Waste Minimisation circles in clusters of small scale industries;

(vi) Emission standards for 79 categories of industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Besides, ambient air and water quality standards have also been notified;

(vii) Large and medium scale units falling under the 17 categories of the hazardous industries are being monitored regularly for overseeing their implementation with the prescribed standards;

(viii) Low lead petrol had been introduced in the 4 metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Subsequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in the above mentioned 4 cities on 1.4.1995; and

(ix) The Government is implementing a major plan of action for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles and introduction of low suplphur diesel for cleaner diesel vehicles in a phased manner. Fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel have been notified.

No Pollution Certificates

1068. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'No Pollution Certificates' had been given to factories spreading pollution;

(b) if not, whether Government have reviewed the functioning of the agencies issuing such certificates; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARAN-DI): (a) No such instances have been brought to the notice of the Central Government. The polluting industries are required to obtain consent to establish and consent to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees.